

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 DPW-01 T-03 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 RSR-01 /123 W
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R 091015 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8424

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL FRANCE

AMCONGEN CAN THO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 3865

GDS

MARR VS

SUBJECT: VISIT TO ICCS CAN THO AND VINH LONG

1. ON MARCH 7 EMBOFF ACCOMPANIED BY OFFICERS OF CONGEN CAN THO VISITED ICCS INSTALLATIONS IN CAN THO AND VINH LONG. IN VINH LONG (HEADQUARTERS REGION VII) CANDEL CHIEF VON NOSTITZ (EXTAFF) WAS GENERALLY PLEASED WITH THE WAY ICCS REGION VII HAD BEEN OPERATING AND THE PROCEDURES ADOPTED FOR CONDUCTING INVESTIGATIONS DURING HS TENURE AS CHAIRMAN. REGION VII HAD BEEN ABLE TO TAKE A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES IN REGARD TO INVESTIATIONS WITHOUT REFERENCE TO ICCS SAIGON AND HE EXPECTED IT TO REMAIN ACTIVE EVEN THOUGH CANADA WOULD NOW ONLY BE CHAIRMAN ONE WEEK OF EACH MONTH. HE CITED COOPERATION BY HIS POLISH COLLEAGUE IN AIDING THIS ACTIVE ROLE.

COMMENT:

VON NOSTITZ, WHO HAS SERVED AT THE UN AND IN THE OLD ICC AT SAIGON AND HANOI, HAS PROVIDED CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE AND ENERGY TO REGION VII. UNLIKE SOME OF HIS EXTAFF COLLEAGUES HE ALSO APPEARS TO HAVE A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MILITARY ELEMENT OF HIS DELEGATION. NEVERTHELESS HE APPEARS TO THINK
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THAT CANADA IS QUITE LIKELY TO PULL OUT OF THE ICCS AFTER X PLUS
60 AS IT IS ONLY TAKING PART BECAUSE OF ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE
US.

2. REGARDING FACILITIES AT CAN THO, THE ICCS HAD MADE AN EFFORT
OBTAIN A PARTICULARLY DESIREABLE COMPOUND IN TOWN PRESENTLY
USED BY THE US ARMY BUT THIS WAS FRUSTRATED BY MR 4 COMMANDER
MAJ GEN NGHI' S DECISION TO USE IT FOR ARVN HOUSING. VON
NOSTITZ DECIDED THAT RAISING THE MATTER TO THE SAIGON LEVEL
WOULD RISK SPOILING GEN NGHI' S GENERALLY COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE
TOWARD THE ICCS AND DROPPED THE REQUEST. ADDENDUM: ON MARCH 9
HOWEVER HE LEARNED THAT GEN NGHI MIGHT SOON BE LEAVING MR-4
AND DECIDED TO RENEW THE ICCS REQUEST FOR THE COMPOUND. COMMENT:
WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION OF VON NOSTITIZ' S INFORMATION REGARDING
NGHI' S REMOVAL BUT IT DOES RECALL STATEMENT MADE BY SENATOR
NGHI IN PARA 4 OF SAIGON 319.

3. AT VINH LONG THE ICCS REGION VII SUB REGIONAL TEAM OCCUPIES
A PLEASANT FORMER CORDS COMPOUND WITH ITS OWN HELIPORT ON THE
BANKS OF THE MEKONG RIVER. THE CHAIRMAN HUNGARIAN MAJ HONTI,
HAD NO COMPLAINTS ABOUT HIS FACILITIES, FOOD, VEHICLES OR
COOPERATION FROM GVN AND USG OFFICIALS. A HIGH LEVEL OF
COOPERATION AND FRIENDSHIP APPEARED TO EXIST AMONG THE FOUR
DELEGATIONS. THE TEAM HAD NOWEVER BEEN RELATIVELY INACTIVE.
IT HAD CALLED ON THE PROVINCE CHIEFS OF SADEC AND VINH LONG,
BUT HAD CONDUCTED NO INVESTIGATIONS (MAJ HONTI STATED THERE
HAD BEEN NO COMPLAINTS TO RESPOND TO) OR ANY OTHER TRAVEL.
WHEN ASKED WHETHER OR NOT REPEAT NOT ICCS MEMBERS COULD TRAVEL.
FREELY MAJ. HONTI REPLIED THAT HE HAD BEEN ASSURED BY THE
VINH LONG PROVINCE CHIEF THAT THE PROVINCE WAS TOTALLY UNDER
GVN CONTROL. COMMENT: THE PROBLEM OF THE ICCS DETERMINING
THE LOCAL SECURITY SITUATION AND ZONES OF CONTROL COMES UP
FREQUENTLY. GVN OFFICIALS TEND TO BE VERY BULLISH WHEN TALKING
TO THE ICCS ON THE SUBJECT AND CONTRARY INFORMATION FROM US
SOURCES MIGHT APPEAR TO THE GVN TO BE AN EFFORT ON OUR PART
TO UNDERMINE THE GVN' S POSITION. THE ICCS, THEREFORE, MADE UP
OF MEN WHO HAVE BEEN IN VIET NAM ONLY A FEW WEEKS, HAS HAD
GREAT DIFFICULTY IN MANY CASES IN GETTING A PICTURE OF THE
LOCAL SITUATION.
WHITEHOUSE

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